(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Circular train through South India

1187. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received for running a circular train through South India to boost tourism; and

(b) if so, the action taken to implement the circular train connecting important South India tourist destinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b)The issue of introducing a tourist train covering the South Indian State capitals was raised in a conference of the South IndianTourism Ministers held on 5th June 2003 at Hyderabad. Thereafter, a meeting of the South Indian Tourism Ministers and the South Indian State Tourism Departments with the Railway officials was scheduled to be held in Hyderabad in September 2003. However the meeting did not take place and there has been no further development in this regard.

Funds for gauge conversion of Nizamabad to Secunderabad

1188. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government have requested the Center to release additional funds of Rs. 50 crores in the budget for 2003-04, for completion of gauge conversion of Nizamabad to Secunderabad from Meter Gauge to Broad Gauge;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) A letter has been received recently from Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh requesting for additional allocation of Rs. 50 crore for the project.